

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

To: All Legislators

From: Representatives John Nygren, Pat Snyder (LRB 5264/1)
Senator Leah Vukmir

AND: Representatives John Nygren, Treig Pronschinske (LRB 5242/2)
Senator Alberta Darling

Date: Friday, January 19, 2018

Re:

Law Enforcement and Public Safety Bill:

LRB-5264/1, relating to: creating a law enforcement agency drug trafficking response grant program; positions to assist in prosecuting drug-related offenses; evidence-based programs for substance abuse prevention services for at-risk youth; victim impact panels; funding for family treatment courts; grants for county jails to provide non-narcotic treatment before offender reentry; and making appropriations.

Healthcare and Workforce Bill:

LRB-5242/2, relating to: continuing education in prescribing controlled substances for certain health care practitioners; maintenance and detoxification treatment provided by physician assistants and advanced practice nurse prescribers; requiring school boards to provide instruction about drug abuse awareness and prevention; graduate training of psychiatric nurses; training materials for social services workers handling substance abuse-related cases; substance abuse counseling and modifying and creating administrative rules related to substance abuse counseling; granting rule-making authority; and making appropriations.

As a part of the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse, Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and I have collaborated with stakeholders and policy experts to craft the next round of proposal in the fight against opioid abuse. The Pew Charitable Trusts has also been in Wisconsin for the last few months, conducting over 100 stakeholder interviews and meetings. Pew has presented us with innovative recommendations. Some of those are reflected in the executive orders signed by Governor Walker and the proposals below.

We believe that the following policy proposals strike a balance between treatment and recovery with law enforcement and justice. It is important that we get treatment to those who need it, and punish those who are facilitating the flow of fatal drugs into Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has continued to be the leader in the nation on combating the opioid crisis and the data released by the Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is very promising. When comparing the 2017 April-June time period to the same months in 2016, 2017 saw 17.5 million fewer opioid dosages dispensed. This represents a 12% decrease from the previous year. This 12% decrease helps close the door to future addiction.

This is just the next stage of the HOPE agenda; there is a lot more work to be done. We look forward to continue to partner with all of our colleagues to defeat substance abuse disorder.

Law Enforcement/Public Safety Package (LRB-5264/1):

Medically Assisted Treatment Pilot Program

Former inmates are at high risk for death from drug overdose, especially in the immediate post-release period. One of the best ways to prevent these issues from occurring is to provide medically assisted treatment (MAT) a few days prior to release. MAT is used to block the effects of alcohol and opioids and relieve physiological cravings. This bill provides \$1.5 million for grants to be used by counties to provide a non-narcotic, non-addictive, injectable medically assisted treatment to inmates who will be released into the community within five days.

Law-Enforcement Drug Trafficking Grants

There has been an increase in the flow of deadly drugs into our state. This bill will provide \$1 million in funding for local law enforcement agencies to expand training, patrols, and investigative capacity resources to target high level drug traffickers.

Regional Drug Prosecutors

In collaboration with Attorney General Brad Schimel, this bill will provide two additional full-time drug prosecutors to assist northern Wisconsin District Attorneys. The two additional attorneys will assist the division of criminal investigation in the field offices of Wausau and Appleton; they will also help assistant district attorneys in the prosecution of drug-related offenses and will be a resource to local D.A. offices. This is modeled off of the success seen in Eau Claire where a new assistant attorney general was placed to assist in drug crimes.

Evidenced Based Programming Funding

The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis listed several evidence-based programs which help prevent substance abuse before it happens. This bill will provide funding for evidence-based programs, which will help reduce the flow of youth into our correctional system and restore strength to the family unit.

Victim Impact Panels

Victim Impact Panels are used frequently in drunk-driving cases as a way to help drunk and drugged driving offenders understand the real life implication on their families and communities. This bill would afford judges the opportunity to utilize another sentencing tool. This bill does not mandate that a judge use or even consider Victim Impact Panels as a sentence option.

Family Drug Courts

Representative Jessie Rodriguez and Senator Alberta Darling authored a bill that would allow for the statewide expansion of the family drug treatment courts. Family drug treatment courts

have seen great success in Milwaukee. This bill will provide \$250,000 GPR for the expansion of family drug treatment courts.

Healthcare/Workforce Package (LRB 5242/2):

County Worker Training Tools

County workers have seen a significant surge in casework due to opioid related child welfare cases and other substance abuse issues. This bill will provide the Department of Children and Families funding to develop and maintain internet-accessible training materials for county social services or veterans services workers on the appropriate response to cases involving substance abuse.

Substance Abuse Counselor Barriers

Wisconsin, like the nation, faces a significant shortage of qualified Substance Abuse Counselors. Wisconsin, however, has a much higher regulatory burden than our neighboring states. The Pew Charitable Trusts has been instrumental in helping us identify ways that we can remove barriers to entry into this field. Representative Duchow has also been a leader on this issue. This bill makes the necessary changes to expand substance abuse counseling to the most vulnerable citizens in the state.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse

Like many healthcare professions, there is a shortage of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses in Wisconsin. PMHN's work with individuals, families, groups, and communities, assessing their mental health needs. More often than not, those with substance abuse disorders suffer mental health disorders as well. Providing the UW-School of Nursing funding to expand their training capacity for PMHN's is a great first step towards getting our most vulnerable the treatment they deserve.

Prescriber Continuing Education

Those who have the responsibility of prescribing opioids should have the requisite knowledge on the impacts and consequences of over-prescribing. We believe that prescribers should complete certain continuing education requirements related to prescribing controlled substances as promulgated by their respective boards. This idea was originally championed by Representative Kolste.

Increasing Access to Buprenorphine

Buprenorphine is one of three medications approved by the FDA to treat people with opioid use disorder (OUD). The Pew Charitable Trusts has identified avenues for increased access to buprenorphine. This bill takes the recommendations from Pew in order to increase access to buprenorphine.

Public School Health Curriculum

Current law requires school boards to provide instruction about the effects of controlled substances and alcohol on the human system. This bill specifies that the references to controlled substances in these requirements include prescription drugs included in the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

If you would like to co-sponsor LRB 5264/1 authored by Representative John Nygren, Representative Pat Snyder, and Senator Leah Vukmir please contact Chris Borgerding in the

Nygren office at 266-2343 or Chris.Borgerding@legis.wisconsin.gov by **3:00 pm Friday, January 26th.**

If you would like to co-sponsor LRB 5242/2 authored by Representative John Nygren, Representative Treig Pronschinske, and Senator Alberta Darling please contact Chris Borgerding in the Nygren office at 266-2343 or Chris.Borgerding@legis.wisconsin.gov by **3:00 pm Friday, January 26th.**